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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

Programme 6. Africa: New Agenda for Development

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6.1 The general orientation of the programme is to mobilize the support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for African development; to ensure that African development remains one of the priorities of the international community; to promote a supportive framework for African development efforts; and to promote a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development.

6.2 The programme was established out of the concern of the international community over the daunting and persistent economic and social crisis facing the African continent since the 1980s. At the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, solely devoted to Africa's critical economic and social situation, the international community launched the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. Following the final review of that programme in 1991, the international community unanimously adopted the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as a successor political compact between Africa and the international community. The mid-term review of the New Agenda is to be carried out by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. In 1990, the Assembly identified African economic recovery and development as a top priority of the United Nations in the 1990s and requested the establishment of a System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. This Plan, which was established in 1992 and revised in 1994, is now being implemented through the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa launched in March 1996 and designed to give an impetus to the New Agenda by setting out programmatic and operational actions. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in 1993 renewed the commitment of the international community to African development and provided an impetus for increased cooperation between Asia and Africa.

6.3 The programme will be under the joint responsibility of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, ECA and the Department of Public Information.

6.4 It is anticipated that by the end of the period covered by the plan the programme will have contributed significantly to the growth and economic recovery of African countries.

Subprogramme 6.1 Mobilization of international support and global coordination

6.5 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, will play a catalytic role in mobilizing the international community's support for concerted action aimed at achieving African development as well as promoting a supportive framework for Africa's efforts.

6.6 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the inclusion of the priorities of the New Agenda in major international development policies and strategies and to facilitate the intergovernmental process dealing with African development;

(b) To encourage the international community, including Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to take appropriate and concrete measures to implement the commitments contained in the New Agenda and the Tokyo Declaration;

(c) To promote cooperation between Africa and other regions of the world within the framework of the New Agenda and the Tokyo Declaration;

(d) To promote the consideration of critical and emerging issues that may affect Africa's development;

(e) To contribute to the coordination of responses of the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in the context of the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa;

(f) To strengthen cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and donor agencies.

Subprogramme 6.2 Monitoring, assessment and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development

6.7 The subprogramme, which is implemented by ECA, will focus on creating conditions at the regional level for effective translation of the objectives of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s into concrete actions by the international community, including the United Nations system and African countries themselves. In addition, it will monitor and report on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.

6.8 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen coordination and harmonization at the regional level of the contribution of various United Nations organizations to the implementation of the New Agenda;

(b) To monitor and follow up the implementation of the various measures contained in the New Agenda, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa;

(c) To support the promotion of South/South cooperation.

Subprogramme 6.3 The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

6.9 The main focus of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Department of Public Information, is to raise global awareness of Africa's critical economic situation and of the actions taken by Africa and the international

community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the continent.

6.10 More specifically, the objectives are:

(a) To promote awareness in Africa and in the international community of the nature of the critical economic and social situation in Africa, and of the domestic and international efforts required for recovery and development, through wide dissemination of the periodical African Recovery to the general public and to target groups such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and academic institutions, as well as through outreach to the African and international mass media;

(b) To promote awareness of the major international and local initiatives and events that will contribute to Africa's economic progress with special emphasis on the New Agenda and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, as well as the efforts undertaken by African countries and the United Nations system to promote Africa's economic and social development;

(c) To highlight the progress achieved in the implementation of the New Agenda, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.